

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 263487

21

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY EB/OA:JSMEADOWS:VLV

APPROVED BY EB/OA:JSMEADOWS

CAB - MR. LITTON

ARA/APU - MR. FELDER

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R 292312Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PAN AM PROPOSED CHANGE OF GAUGE

REF: STATE 262147

1. PAN AM REPORTS THAT BRIGADIER NEME HAS NOW AGREED TO ALLOW SUNDAY'S FLIGHT USING CARACAS CHANGE OF GAUGE POINT TO TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE REFUSED TO ALLOW FOR ANY OTHER FLIGHTS UTILIZING CARACAS CITING COMPETITIVE IMPACT ON AEROLINEAS.

2. WHILE NEME'S REAL REASON FOR REFUSING PAN AM REQUEST MAY BE GENERAL STATE BILATERAL RELATIONS, WE THINK IT

IMPORTANT TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT BY POINTING OUT CHANGE OF GAUGE IN CARACAS WOULD HAVE NO GREATER EFFECT ON CARACAS-B.A. MARKET THAN CHANGE OF GAUGE IN PANAMA BECAUSE IN BOTH CASES A NARROW-BODIED AIRCRAFT WILL HAVE FULL CAPACITY AVAILABLE BETWEEN CARACAS AND B.A. IT IS TRUE THAT PAN AM COULD BE SLIGHTLY MORE COMPETITIVE IN US-ARGENTINA MARKET WITH ELIMINATION OF PANAMA STOP BUT THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO

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PAGE 02 STATE 263487

BE NEME'S POINT. WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT GOA IS ALLEGING

THAT US FAILURE TO RESPOND TO JULY 18, 1974 NOTE IS
REASON FOR NEGATIVE REACTION. WE REGARD THIS AS SPECIOUS
SINCE USG PROBLEMS WITH TAKING UP ARGENTINE PROPOSALS WERE
WELL KNOWN TO GOA. FYI. IT MAY BE THAT GOA ATTEMPTING
DEVELOP SOME PRESSURES FOR RESUMING CONSULTATIONS. WHILE
WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING IN RECENT GOA ATTITUDE WHICH WOULD

PROVIDE OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS,
WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION AND
RECOMMENDATION ON DESIRABILITY OF RESUMING TALKS. END
FYI. INGERSOLL

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